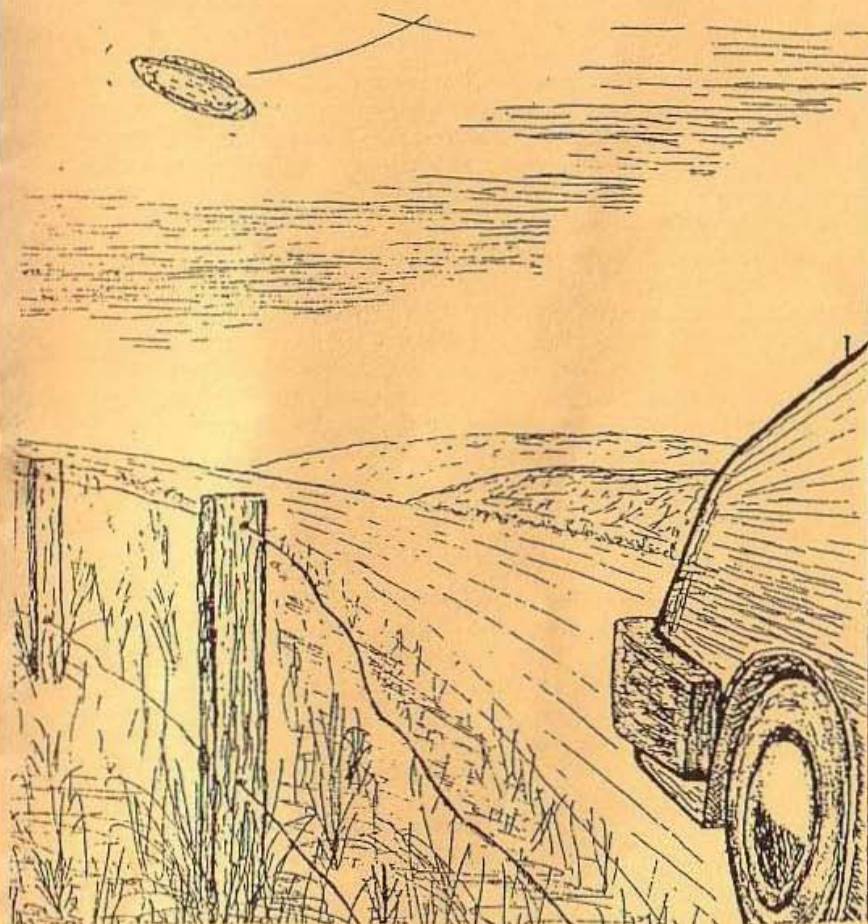


NORTHERN UFO NEWS

146
DECEMBER
1990



"Happy Christmas
and a fortunate
new year to you
all."

Jenny Randles

All the news, views and up to date cases £6 for six
Editor: Jenny Randles Cover: Bill Callaghan

CONTENT: Usual features plus... p.2...Where have all the UFOs gone? ... p.3
- 9...News, elsewhere, book reviews and media matters ... P. 9 British
Roundabout...P.11 ...overseas cases from Louisiana, USA, Zambia, Portugal and
India ...p 12 - 14 ...Brief cases from Cheshire, Lancashire,
Leicestershire, Oxfordshire, Scotland, South Yorks ...including the Yorkshire
pterodactyl P.15 Case History... Cownapping in Ireland? P.16 Xmas
Competition - Free subscription. Try your luck and your skill

37 HEATHBANK ROAD CHEADLE HEATH STOCKPORT CHESHIRE ENGLAND SK3 0UP

J.R. Comments... It is customary at this time of year to reflect on the times past and where they have taken UFOlogy. For me the biggest puzzle is not what has started to happen but what has started NOT to happen.

Something strange has occurred within the UFO field. Its character has altered very subtly into a new chameleonic shape. Is this not a significant clue about its very essence?

It is often the case that one does not see changes as they slowly come to be. It is hard now to place ourselves back in the frame of mind we held some 20 years ago (those whose adult memories go back that far, that is!) Yet the world was a quite different place; although as those two decades have unfolded we have barely noticed the arrival of technology we now take for granted (eg VCRs, laser surgery techniques, LED displays and so on).

Within UFOlogy this has always presented us with a fascinating hint about the nature of the phenomenon. See the archaic lumbering dials and room sized computers you find in Star Trek's 'future age' (state of the art 25 years ago but in museums now). Yet in the Star Trek plot 1990 folk are primitive. In fact it is very interesting to compare the old Star Trek series with the 'New Generation' shows and realise one key reason why the scriptwriters had to set the new episodes in the century AFTER Captain Kirk and his merry men. Our own technology has rocketed past the level displayed in mid sixties 'Star Trek' in unpredicted ways. If we were to make the new Star Trek seem real and futuristic then it had to be set years ahead of the first series in order to accomodate our REAL progress.

So what has Star Trek got to do with UFOs? If you think about it a very great deal. Read up contact stories from the passing decades in sequence and you will find that alien technology upgrades in stages too - and, would you credit it, stages that match our own to a disturbing degree. Where are the LED displays in a 50's contactee tale - or even one from the 1973 American wave? We find them today, but unless we conclude remarkable parallel evolution (ie the aliens make discoveries at the same as we do) or suggest they pinch our ideas and build them into their latest design of spaceship this 'cultural tracking' - as it has become known (see UFO REALITY for the origin of that term) - can only imply one reason. WE are the source of the alien imagery. Its form matches our progress, because its form depends intimately on what we say, do, think and possess at any one period in our cultural development. Otherwise, wouldn't we find the sort of technology new today (or even unknown to us yet) swamping all the reports of alien contact, irrespective of when they occurred over the past decades?

Yet something else worries me more. Where have all the UFOs gone?

I remember in the early 80's commenting in this magazine about the dramatic fall in UFO reports in the aftermath of 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind'. It was as if Spielberg's movie fantasy allowed millions to let off psychic steam all at once by the mere act of going to the cinema. Most debunkers predicted huge waves of UFO sightings in the wake. The reverse was what happened. UFOs became an endangered species.

As the Spielberg legacy vanishes into the netherworld of TV re-runs this extinction has not come to pass and UFO reports are trickling in at a faster rate than a decade ago. But things are not the same. We have not returned to the old style of UFOlogy that we had before 'Sky Harbour' landed behind the Devil's Tower in Wyoming. The new type of UFO report is sufficiently different to be suggestive once again of a vital indication of the truth.

For instance, whither all the car stops that we used to get. Once upon a time our pages were full of solid looking 'craft' that left burn marks on the ground, disturbed animals and conked out car engines with gay abandon. If a radar set was tuned in strange blips would appear. And you could guarantee a half dozen fascinating new photographic cases of rather more than a white speck of light amidst a blackened sky each and every year.

Where are these things now? Did the aliens watch 'Close Encounters', decide their reality would never match Hollywood and phone for a taxi home? Did Uncle Sam pack them all off to 'Dreamland' beneath the Nevada desert? Or is there more to it than that?

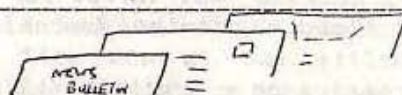
I can tell from the letters that flood in from readers of my books and the cases that UFO groups produce for this magazine that we have a far more polarised brand of UFOlogy now. You get lots of lights in the sky and a few stray 'craft'. Photo cases are few and far between. I have lost count of the last good one we had - and despite what some people claim Billy Meier and Gulf Breeze are not exceptions. Indeed, they are so bizarre and unlike previous photo cases that they are further evidence of what I am saying.

Even alien contact has changed. Where are the stories of witnesses happening upon aliens meandering around outside their craft and poking holes in the ground? Today there are no CE 3s - only CE 4s. If your story does not live up to the Strieber or Hopkins pattern of abduction then it probably does not get reported. There is even a clear blurring of the boundaries between abduction and psychic phenomenon. Straightforward alien encounters have gone in favour of bedroom visions with ghostly spacemen that float you out of the body.

In fact, even the dreaded crop circles are evidence of this change - fast dominating UFOlogy around the world and taking on such godly status that they are bound to set whole new trends for years to come.

I am not sure what all this means - except that, to me, it further indicates how UFOlogy is born of the well spring of human consciousness and fulfills a dramatic role at the cutting edge of our culture. It may even help to forge our destiny. Keel says ultraterrestrials manifest like this. Vallee says its an inter-dimensional safety valve or intelligence test prodding society into motion. The crop circle fraternity speak of messages from the heart of the earth to warn of catastrophe - distress calls from a stricken planet, a cry semi echoed by the earthlight people such as Devereux. Even Strieber has fascinating things to say in this regard behind the essence of his basic experiences. I make my own views known in my book 'Mind Monsters' (Aquarian Press) - so I won't repeat them here. Perhaps somewhere in all of this a synthesis will emerge. Who will give it a go?

NEWS ROUND UP:



:: More news on the 1990 conference in Sheffield next August (16, 17 & 18). It now seems that for the first time in the UK speakers from all five continents will be presenting papers. Betty Cash and Vickie Landrum - the two women horrifically burned by a UFO over Texas in 1980 - are the latest to confirm they will come to tell their tale and campaign for action.

:: BUFORA has some exciting publishing plans for 1991. Aside from the latest UFO WORLD volume in March, John Spencer is stewarding two new books from major publishers under the BUFORA banner. One is an Encyclopedia, and the other a world atlas. Watch out for those in the Spring.

FOR YOUR PERUSAL:



Major articles elsewhere

A couple of oddities to report on. I had a batch of stuff from GIT - the acronym somewhat unfortunately chosen by 'Globe in Transit' newsletter. I haven't yet decoded what they are aiming to do; although there are lots of strange snips about rock stars, UFOs and space - eg the late (very late) Jim Morrison of the Doors and alien contact. This forms part of 'An H-Bomb in Reverse'; which is an 18 pp A4 photocopied tract on Morrison's life, rock songs on space, UFO encounters and other related myths and legends. If you are into this sort of thing (or have an acute case of terminal weirdness) then GIT and co will probably appeal. Apparently some 49 numbered copies of a limited run of 'H-Bomb' are on sale. Check out post office windows for a little card announcing details or (more seriously) send £1.30 to: 'Daniel' c/o 11 Wharton Street London WC1X 9PX

On a slightly more restrained note the latest issue of Rattler's Tales (now subtitled 'A voyage of the imagination') has arrived. Very neat 32pp A5 typesetting and a rich tapestry (at least 20 items this issue) of (very) short stories (mostly horror, SF and crime) and true snippets and mini articles on the paranormal. Certainly different - and they are now PAYING £5 for accepted pieces. Six issue sub costs £5 (£8 overseas in UK funds). I must admit I rather like the blend: - Anthony North BCM Keyhole London WC1N 3XX

UFO Brigantia Nov (£8 for 6, 84 Elland Rd Brighouse West Yorks HD6 2QR) Our sister magazine still going strong as ever. Irreverent and fearless or just plain mad - the verdict is yours. This issue dissects 'Communion: The Movie', crop circles, Gulf Breeze et al. Perry Petrakis reviews French UFOlogy. There are the (un)usual letter pages and a gossip column to set you buzzing. Rumour mongers claim that the editors of Brigantia and NUN are competing to see who can incite the most complaints. Don't you believe it - which is actually a fairly good motto for Brigantia, akin to the one now emblazoned on the cover ('Nothing is true - Everything is Permitted').

Don't forget Brigantia and NUN have a deal unique in world UFOlogy. Unlike SKY and BSB we DO give you the best of both worlds without any hint of customer rip off, take over or merger. We just coordinate issues to give you one a month (12 a year) and if you subscribe to BOTH (via either address) you get all copies for £12 (that's a £2 saving). No strings - just service.

SPI Enigmas Nov (£7.50 for 5, 5 Tullibody Rd Alloa Scotland FK10 2LL) Scotland's premier journal of the paranormal has steadily increased in quality and is now well worth your attention. Packed with reports and articles on everything (this issue includes ghosts, witches, crop circles, the cosmic joker, lake monsters - as well as UFOs, of course). 36pp of real note.

J. Meteorology (Dr G T Meaden 54 Frome Rd Bradford on Avon Wilts BA15 1LD) For those interested in crop circles this TORRO publication is well worth having. 10 issues a year cost £22 (£27 overseas, £37 airmail) or (on request) £16 for students and OAPs. The Oct and Nov issues carry reports on preliminary scientific enquiries into the unusual 1990 crop formations, new historical data reporting possible vortices and circles back as far as the year 1590 - plus many other articles on weather phenomena, some of which will be of real interest to the open minded UFOlogist. There is even a case of spontaneous combustion for the Fortean.

Folklore Frontiers (£4 for 4, 5 Egton Dr Seaton Carew Hartlepool TS25 2AT)
Always a nice pot pourri of tales in Fortean Times mode. However, why print such an amazingly tasteless, wretched obituary on the late Anthony Roberts?

Fortean Times 55 (£8 for 4, from FT 20 Paul St Frome Somerset BA11 1DX)
I have been very disappointed by FT's handling of the crop circles, leaving much to be desired; although not surprising given their association with John Michell. Still this (quite serious) personal reservation apart FT continues to please with a unique range of strange anecdotes on all things.

STRANGE 6 (£13.50 for 4, Mark Chorvinsky PO Box 2246 Rockville MD 20847)
A sort of American equivalent of the above, with masses of Fortean items and articles. However, it tends to be more UFO orientated than FT and has regular articles from John Keel, which is a plus in anybody's language. This issue has much of interest (eg living pterosaurs) and a not unreasonable American perspective on crop circles either. Quality 64pp A4 format with photos impresses. The special deal shown above lets you pay (to Mark Chorvinsky) in UK funds. I would warmly recommend STRANGE to any reader with broad tastes.

IUR Sep/Oct (\$30 for 6, 2457 West Peterson Ave Chicago IL 60659 USA)
Detailed analysis of Howard Blum's claims in 'Out There' and the Dreamland UFO base stories. Budd Hopkins on the origin of screen memory in abductions. Michael Swords on the UFOs as time travellers hypothesis he seems to like.

MUFON Journal (\$30 for 12, 103 Oldtowne Rd Seguin Texas 78155-4099 USA)
A brand new abduction theory (human mind-benders with nefarious purposes!) and a Soviet crop circle case are just two of the items in the Oct issue.

Orbiter Sep (No price given, 43 Harrison Street Reading MA 01867 USA)
A special piece focusing on a re-evaluation of the classic 'Incident at Exeter' case in New Hampshire 25 years ago. As always a good incisive read.

NUFOG Oct (\$20 for 4, Jan Knapen Langstraat 19, B-3830 Wellen Belgium)
A fascinating 40 pp A4 review IN ENGLISH. This special issue focuses on the Belgian wave of triangular UFOs with maps, graphs, photos - in fact just about everything you need to know to form your own evaluation. Promissing.

BOOKS OF THE MOMENT



THE UFO REPORT 1991 (Ed) Tim Good Sidgwick & Jackson £9.99 p/back 1990

This follows on from last years report and is much in the same vein. Many of the comments I made in my review of the 1990 version earlier this year still apply. However, the new edition is to my mind an improvement.

The pattern is much as before. George Wingfield reports on crop circles once again in a fairly unrestrained tone (ie we hear about unseen entities and signs, messages and channeling communiques from Rochdale! - which will probably delight freewheeling circle researchers, but few Rochdaliens).

Ralph Noyes is here again (with one of the better articles - on the paranormal interface and bedroom visitor aspect of abduction and contacts). Linda Moulton Howe provides some gorey photos and text on cattle mutilations, still the rage in the USA, it seems.

The books real strength comes not from such general pieces but its review of cases in remoter parts of the world - which a couple of items in this volume do cover pretty well.

Reservations remain over the balance (or relative lack of it) and I winced at the comments (made by the editor but also hinted elsewhere in the text) that this years photo volume on Gulf Breeze UFOs was "undoubtedly the most important book on the subject for years" and the case would "go a long way towards establishing the objective reality (of UFOs)". Perhaps time will prove Tim right and vindicate this strange case, but there is enough controversy about the affair to make even the most fervent believer surely hesitate over such a claim. I cannot help remember Tim Good expressing rather positive views on the famous daylight photos from Barnsley in 1987 (as indeed did other UFOlogists). Bear in mind the outcome to that case.

Interesting but unproven and requiring an application of great caution - is the right motto on such occasions. It fits this book pretty well.

THE LATEST EVIDENCE Colin Andrews & Pat Delgado Bloomsbury £5.99 1990

A slim book (half the size of Circular Evidence with only 80pp). More or less a couple of chapters to tack onto that 1989 book as an update, it again focuses mostly on excellent colour reproductions of crop circles - especially 1989 and 1990 examples. The text offers a few more tidbits about weird noises and feelings at sites and those of you who found Circular Evidence rivetting and trailblazing and those viewing it as rather credulous will develop similar thoughts on what is much of a muchness.

I must say I found the account of their verbal attack on Dr Meaden at the Oxford conference this June not at all how I remember it. They claim that their incisive questions left Meaden "undressed on stage" and "highly embarrassed" - to which the physicist made statements that were "blatantly personal", because "words failed him in front of a packed assembly of scientists". I think Meaden maybe could have said more, but as one of the speakers that day stood within feet of him at the time, this is an unfair version of the truth and I understand why he chose not to respond at once.

It will be vital to see how Meaden replies now to these charges. If he stays silent then it will be perceived by some as implying that Andrews and Delgado speak the truth and the physicist really has no answer to their claims. Of course, if he responds, then Fortean Times will probably accuse him of descending into vitriolic personal abuse as they did of Fuller and I.

Come on John Michell - tell FT readers (and me) what Andrews and Delgado's words about Meaden in 'Latest Evidence' should be termed? Or is it different when something said by them as opposed to things said about them?

In my personal opinion 'Latest Evidence' tells us little we don't already know. There is again no index. There are no references. There are few general facts and figures and no indication that circles occur commonly anywhere but in Wessex. You will not find any real answers as to what is going on either. The pictograms are presented as if they were the dominant factor in the 1990 formations. Would the reader understand that well over 90% of the years circles were much more simple patterns not these weird and wonderful shapes that were all found quite close together in time and space and after the media bandwagon inevitably triggered hoaxing into action?

I hate saying it because it may seem like sour grapes, but I must offer my honest feelings. This book has some very nice photographs but little else of lasting value to commend it. Which will not stop it selling.

UFOs IN THE 1980's (Ed) Jerome Clark Apogee Books 234pp 1990

This is the first volume in a projected three volume set. It turns out to be a bit of a curio. The publishers (Apogee Books at Omnigraphics of Penobscot Building Detroit MI 48226 USA) are not familiar to me. The resultant book has a tinge of 'home production' quality to it.

By this I mean it has a fairly plain and dull purple hard cover and reasonably well typeset pages (large format, double columns). However, there are no illustrations or line drawings of any sort - a strange omission for a UFO encyclopedia. At the end of this review you will see that cost probably cannot be considered a legitimate excuse for that. On the other hand the text itself more than makes up for these unfortunate shortcomings.

As might be expected Jerry Clark (editor of the IUR) does a fine job of marshalling text. This does include some contributions, along the lines of the Ron Storey Encyclopedia back in 1980 - but relatively few of them. The contributors are leading UFO researchers and write at some length on subjects they know well (eg Bill Chalker on Australian UFOlogy). However, much of the text is actually written by the editor himself.

There are reviews of the main nations, potted biographies of key groups plus a few well known researchers (much more selective than in the Storey Encyclopedia but given in fairly similar vein with 'position statements' from each one - thus allowing interesting comparisons in some cases with ten years before). Beyond that there are a limited number of quite lengthy reports on what Clark considers the main themes of 1980's UFOlogy (such as abductions, earthlights, fantasy prone hypotheses etc). Of these I found Clark's long and at times quite illuminating critique of the psycho-social theory and its development particularly fascinating. Indeed that can be said of much of the text, which makes a real contribution to the subject.

Oddly, its case data is somewhat limited. Cash-Landrum, Hessdalen, the JAL sightings, Trans-en-Provence, Voronezh, Westchester (plus Gulf Breeze, of course) are just about it. Maybe that is an interesting illustration of my point in the editorial of this issue - where HAVE all the good cases gone?

Were this a book retailing at £15 or so (pretty normal these days) I would be warmly recommending it to you. However, it is priced at such an extraordinary high level I wonder who will buy it. At \$65 cover price - that would mean at least £40 (with postage) if you bought it in from the USA. I must suspect libraries and UFOlogists a whole lot richer than I will be its only customers. In many respects that is a great shame and a worrying reflection of the times. One suspects this book might just be too restrained for the normal US market (especially given the flop that a not widely dissimilar concept - 'Phenomenon' - has proved when released over there compared with its success in this country).

A British style book by an American author for the US marketplace? If so, that's a compliment.

Readers often ask for an update on my own writing projects. 1991 should see the release of two books co-authored with Peter Hough. The first will appear in February as a Futura paperback and is entitled 'Scary Stories' - being a collection of true paranormal investigations told in short story format, with a bit of a twist. On a deeper level and coming in the summer from Cassell is 'Looking for the Aliens' - a very wide ranging view of the search for extra-terrestrial life from various perspectives and containing some original interviews with assorted seekers of one kind or another.

MEDIA MATTERS



A look at UFOs in the public eye

UFOs made a brief appearance in November on the Channel 4 'Equinox' documentary 'Superpowers' - where UFOlogy was represented by an 'oh yes it is - oh no it isn't' debate on MJ-12 starring Philip Klass and a.n. other. The show - resembling a CSICOP promotion video - had its moments but Channel 4's handling of UFOs has been consistently bad and is unlikely to change if my communications with their programming unit is anything to go by. Was MJ-12 the best CSICOP could come up with when trying to rubbish UFOs on a British made show?...But then that in itself is significant, suggesting they were implying to viewers that UFOlogy largely depends on contentious official documents and must convince the world that UFO = Spaceship. One might suspect that faced with the many good witnesses and most British UFOlogists arguing vigorously that the few residual puzzling reports actually reflect unidentified atmospheric phenomena (not alien ships) then the skeptic's case would be tough to prove. Are other targets preferred to elevate the 'success' of the debunking ethos? Human nature, I suppose, but I wonder is it a wholly fair tactic by guardians of the scientific truth?

Guess who won't be getting a Christmas card from The Skeptics Society!

I remember going to a Led Zeppelin concert ONCE about 25 years ago (they were far too loud for me - I preferred the support act - Blodwyn Pig!) Odd to find them now in my mind again thanks to the crop circles. Their new Remasters album has one of the 1990 pictograms on the cover and is now adorning billboards worldwide. The Bristol Evening Post (18 Oct) reports how the record company were swamped with callers seeing the album and now convinced THEY had faked the circles as a publicity stunt, but - no, quoth the producers - "(we) just have to tell them they are genuine." Apparently; "(The circles) were so amazing and this was a great opportunity to internationalise them." What intrigues me is this. IF the pictograms are hoaxes is someone now out there wrestling with the dilemma of keeping the game on the boil or claiming their share of the copyright royalties for the use of this piece of artwork on such a mammoth scale. Think about it!

Two excellent general reports appeared recently in erudite sources. The Face (November) had a long piece - mostly featuring interviews with Andy Roberts and Budd Hopkins but with some wry and often barely subtle digs at British UFOlogy on the way (luckily Peter Hough hasn't seen what is said about his Ilkley Moor lecture at Sheffield, for instance!)(oops - now Peter will ensure he does!!) The article was pithy and apt in many places and Andy bravely made his bid to outdo yours truly as champion of the latest UFO game-show - 'Writ of the week'. His vitriolic attacks cannot even be paraphrased, as I would undoubtedly be sued by indirect association, even though, despite his best efforts, poor Andy has failed to get off the mark as yet. I suspect this is on the grounds that he hasn't got any money - as, incidentally, neither have I - certainly not any more. As someone said quite recently on her way out of a black door - 'It's a funny old world'.

The other feature was in the Times Colour Supplement (10 Nov) - again surprisingly informative as an overview; although a description of the Alan Godfrey case was so off beam I doubt even Alan would recognise his own encounter. Nevertheless the piece ranged from Kenneth Arnold to plasma vortices via abductions, contactees, the recent spate of triangular UFOs, Stealth, IFOs and the Peter Day movie film case. BUFORA came out well.

With these items UFOlogy was mirrored to an unprecedented degree.

Meanwhile back in the trenches there has been a lot of fuss over Bob Taylor's trousers (pronounced 'trewsers' - as Bob is the Scottish witness to the famous Livingston landing in November 1979). SPI have recovered the ones he wore when two spiky mines knocked him out in this classic case and as The Scotsman (5 Nov) reports, a psychic will now be employed to psychometrise them. Bob - aged 72 and in secret retirement - expressed little expectation that clairvoyants will succeed where police forensic laboratories, BUFORA, YUFOS, Uncle Tom Cobby and all failed. However, a plaque bearing immortal words from Arthur C Clarke about this case will be put up on site in the woods by workers on the employment training scheme - ET!

The only murmur out of The Sport of late (1 Nov) is the report that Winston Churchill supposedly had meetings with aliens on Salisbury Plain during World War II. He tried to get them to fight the Nazi's but they were baffled by this thing called war and decided they couldn't get involved. Presumably they had to start planning work on designer crop circles.

Speaking of lawsuits (who was?) a wry thought crossed my mind when seeing The News (Portsmouth) (1 Oct) in which a man is shown launching a new group with what looks from the photo suspiciously like BUFORA's copyrighted R1 report forms. The man has changed his name by deed poll from Stanley Pitt - and although he can (seriously) rest assured that this will NOT happen because BUFORA isn't like that, honest - I had visions of the Sunday Sport headlines and the tabloid riches we could reap. After his name change Mr Pitt has assumed the identity of a deceased American pop singer...I can just see it now - 'It's Official: BUFORA sues Elvis Presley'.

BRIEF CASES

Some current investigations



BRITISH ROUNDABOUT

In southern Scotland a "mysterious bright orange light" has puzzled residents of the Castle Douglas area throughout September and October. The light was situated on a box in a field and was apparently kept on 24 hours a day, bringing speculation about a landing marker for spaceships. The landowner claimed British Gas were responsible. British Gas pleaded ignorance. Tension mounted as the locals awaited ET. Eventually the cover up was broken and British Gas admitted it WAS there properly, part of a monitor operation on pipes. The halogen light was supposed to switch off each night on a time switch and during the day was surveyed by helicopter to test that the pipes do not corrode (this severing the electrical link and switching out the light). Clever, eh?

A little further south more lights have bugged Cumbrian citizens. On 14 October at 22.00 a "cigar shaped light" was seen over Scout Scar from the A 591 near Kendal. Three people in a car reported it (and there was an independent report to Kendal police). It was a "fluffy" light "inside a cloud" which was "more like steam or mist". The thing moved about 'in' the cloud and changed shape whilst remaining stationary. It is worth comparing this account with the 'laser light' IFO trend reported in the last NUN. Whilst this was not lasers the probability that it was a searchlight beam of some sort seems pretty clear from the description.

The police concluded the same thing, adding that people out looking for foxes with a power beam was a possibility. The trusty MoD babbled on about 'no defence implications' and how they are only interested if "we have a report of something over one of our airfields" (er - like at RAF Woodbridge, for instance?). Meanwhile, local UFOlogist Mike Oram was quoted as saying that the sighting was similar to one seen by a BOAC crew over Labrador yonks ago (in fact I cannot see the comparison at all with this famous daylight sighting). Oram added that UFOs are reputed to manufacture clouds to hide in - which sounds like a great example of obscurantism (!)

However, the mystery was resolved next week when a group of CB enthusiasts laughing their socks off reported that THEY were the UFO. Apparently Kendal is a radio blackspot - so they climb the hill and rove around with car beams on full to illuminate their activities. These searchlights often reflect oddly through low cloud or mist - hence the UFO.

A more puzzling case comes from Mrs R - living in the Dudley area of the midlands. Years ago she recalls 'Fen's Pool' - an old quarry filled with water and now used for fishing. Late one night she was there walking with her young son admiring the reflection of the moon and some distant streetlights on the water. Then she noticed in one corner that "the water was going up and down and there looked like a shiny object in (it)." She describes it as "a child's spinning top going up and down". The rest of the pond was calm but she got the impression this rippling phenomenon was "rising and spinning" - so they fled. She glanced back once and says the object was on the surface and climbing upward. She did not stop to look back again, but returned next night to convince herself that there were no stray reflections in this part of the pool that might be responsible.

The case is interestingly similar to one described in 'Pennine UFO Mystery' from near Helmshore, Lancashire - when two youths saw a ring of lights under the surface of a reservoir. The case was reconstructed on site and featured as our 'typical UFO sighting' in an ITV networked children's series 'The Final Frontier' which I helped Granada TV put together back in 1982. This was, as a point of interest, the item that gave Fred Talbot his TV debut (Fred was then a teacher in Altrincham but is now the - much richer - 'This Morning' weatherman who prances about on a floating map of Britain in the Albert Dock and somehow manages not to fall in).

To end with a weird synchronicity. I had a letter from a man who reported that he found one of my books by odd coincidence at the library and wanted to report an experience he had in March 1966 "in a very tiny village in Cornwall". He was approaching here after a long drive from Essex with his wife and 5 year old daughter. It was a late moonlit night and they were past Sweetshouse heading south and almost home. A deep red glow filled the sky ahead and as they approached up the hill it became clear that a large dark (unseen) mass was in the sky and the red glow poured out of two 'doors' in the side. A small cigar shaped object was very slowly entering these, after which they slid shut and the sky was plunged into darkness. The man leapt out of the car onto a grassy bank but the sky was dark, silent and empty. He said he felt 'singled out' (although his wife and daughter both saw the thing too) and never had the urge to report it to anyone until now. The oddest thing is that the day I received the letter I happened to be reading the brilliant novel by the late Daphne Du Maurier - 'The House on the Strand' - which is an eerie time travel and supernatural tale set, incredibly, in the very same TINY village where they lived - Tywardreath.

OVERSEAS CONNECTIONS

(1) 1973 USA

Four young men (two of whom were airmen at England AFB in Alexandria, Louisiana) had an encounter on 7 October 1973. They had gone on a 35 mile round trip by bicycle to Hot Wells along rural roads and stopped for a beer on their way home. Time was around 20.00 on starry night. They then observed "an armada of at least a hundred or more UFOs flying extremely high up". These moved east and were in a 'flock' formation with an 'v' at the front and took several minutes to cross the sky. They decided not to report for fear of ridicule. A couple of weeks later the great US wave started, especially in the Gulf of Mexico states - including the famous Pascagoula, Mississippi CE 4 (the key abductee of which will be lecturing at the Sheffield conference next summer). Whilst the witness who told me of this feels it was very strange I have a suspicion this was a formation of birds with reflective underbellies having 'come south' for the winter.

(2) 1985 Zambia

A young boy and his older sister were playing outside around noon at Chisamba in this African state. Suddenly they heard a soft humming sound and glanced up to see a dark grey object like a spinning bob with a yellow band in the middle. Their dog was barking at it and the cat ran away and hid. After watching for a couple of minutes they ran indoors to tell their father as it remained hovering. When they came back out it had gone.

(3) 1987 Portugal

On 5 June 1987 at Vilamoura a retired brother and sister relaxed by the pool one hot morning near midday when beside a nearby tree a cloud of white mist appeared - an irregular vertical oval in shape. It remained there for 20 minutes and he felt 'odd'. His sister was frightened and stopped him going up and touching it. Then it suddenly became like wispy smoke and rose upwards into the sky, rapidly dispersing. Investigator Michael Lewis suggests it was some sort of odd meteorological effect.

(4) 1988 India

On 4 December 1988 at approximately 02.00 a girl and her boyfriend were returning home from a party at Chanakyapuri, New Delhi. Two flying objects appeared in the star filled sky. They were triangular or arrow like with a red, green and blue flashing light inside and a steady yellow glow at the rear. The flashing lights seemed to rotate. They moved in unison, turning through 90 degrees together, although some distance apart. Then one rose towards the other, obscuring it so only the yellow glows remained. There was no sound. Not only is this usual but Indian UFO sightings are rarely noted.



USA

Zambia

Portugal

India

OZ FACTOR TIME LAPSE IN SKEM

Case 6408 MUFORA 24 August 1964 Skelmersdale, Lancs

B7-5

Recently we have noticed an increasing spate of strange craft encounters in the vicinity of this town north of Liverpool (known as Skem to locals). Colleen Innes reports that there are rumours about secret military craft based in an underground complex at the Warton base near Preston (where the Tornado jet is built and test flown). Certainly, readers will have seen a number of cases in NUN that might fit the description of some kind of military craft of very unusual design being flown in the middle of the night around this mostly rural area under cover of a UFO.

However, there is a risk of reading too much into these cases and some are probably less strange than they sound. J arrived at work at 05.30 and was locking his motorcycle in the sheds. He was about to set off when he was 'drawn' to a glow behind clouds. As he stared at this partially obscured 'thing' his mind suddenly went blank. He has no idea when he 'came to' but the object had gone. He remained for some minutes staring at the sky but it did not return. Next morning - same time, same place - exactly the same thing happened. He says he cannot even describe the object, as if his mind is controlled by the 'thing'.

Subsequently he has had several 'memory lapses' immediately prior to seeing lights in the sky and he thinks these act as triggers or warnings for the experience to follow. He has also had what he calls a 'night of terror', when an "explosion occurred in my head. This was real and could be likened to a red flash when short circuiting occurs. What followed was more than a dream... I do not want to experience again the fear and terror it brought me." For the rest of the night he wrestled with images (of seeing the earth from space) that were slipping away and disappearing. He tried but could no longer recall details of his UFO encounters or time lapses. Despite three hypnosis sessions he has failed to recall any memories to fill in any gaps - and, of course, we are not even certain there are any gaps.

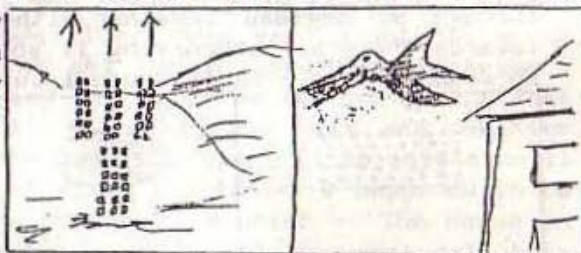
I wonder if this case has interesting clues about the brain-mind interface and its relationship to the UFO encounter, since the symptoms here described are akin to a number of pathological conditions effecting memory retention and, of course, to recollection of non registered dream imagery.

HOW TO MAKE A DINOSAUR FLY Case 7239 Sheffield, South Yorks

B6-5

Mr H lived in the Totley area overlooking the Derbyshire peaks. At age 10 the first strange thing occurred. It was approximately 16.30 one day in 1972 and he was returning from school beside some wasteground (at Bradway) when he saw a curious object "rising slowly upwards". It was shaped like a fork with three prongs (ie a trident) and was blue ("similar to the flame of a bunsen burner". The fork was composed of "square shaped particles with regular gaps between them" and "more solid than a flame". It also "glistened". As the thing rose slowly

upwards (although time slowed down in his mind and the area became oddly calm and quiet during the sighting) the particles kept in formation. The fork was six ft high and three ft wide. Mr H (now a student) admits he cannot be certain of the Oz factor



effects, which may have been a coincidence; although they seemed odd to him.

In August 1977 Mr H went with a neighbour onto the moors to see a grass fire. They stopped for petrol on a sunny afternoon and watched for some minutes as a silvery yellow oval moved in the sky above them. It drifted from side to side, then downwards, then side to side again. Mr H says it reminded him of the ball in a computer or video game. Eventually the object shot upwards at great speed and vanished.

Three months later he was in his garden when he heard a growling noise above. In the sky he saw a bird the size of a large crow but utterly fantastic in appearance. It was dark and had scales instead of feathers and bright red eyes. As it flew over it opened the mouth (on a face akin to an alsation!) and displayed a set of razor teeth. For all the world his sketch looks like a pteradactyl - (a flying dinosaur) reports of which have been made before, including over Yorkshire (see 'Mind Monsters' reference this). If Mr H is being truthful then his sighting occurred at almost the same time as Ian Watson's novel *Miracle Visitors* was appearing - the classic UFO story based on the 'tulpa' theory of matter-consciousness interaction. Watson set his tale in Yorkshire and featured a young student as the main character whose UFO adventures begin with the 'creation' of a pteradactyl over the moors! Watson has commented before that when he wrote his book parts of it started to come true around him - which, given the theme of his story (what the mind thinks into existence it can actually bring to life) is, to say the least, remarkable when seen alongside this 'new' case.

CASE 7481 Unknown 1974 Dundee, Scotland D3-4

A young girl was taking some rubbish out to the bin on a dark early evening when she saw a bright white light streak UP into the air from the ground. She ran in frightened. This could well have been a flare or distress rocket perhaps. However, early this year (16 years after the above) she had a weird dream that set her thinking there was more to it. A spaceship landed in the garden (physically impossible given the small size) and she was taken aboard. She floated back into her body 'like a leaf' and 'woke up' to terminate the experience, most of which she has forgotten. She thinks it was a dream, but after reading a few UFO books has begun to wonder. She says "I know the brain is a complex machine and I have read so much about UFOs. But I have a strange feeling I should tell people not to be afraid of them - to be humble, yes, but not scared."

CASE 77-349 Summer 1977 Birley Carr, South Yorks B4-4

Mr E, then aged 5, saw a strange 'aeroplane' that was almost like an airship but dark in colour. There was a framework and tight material over this and the whole object seemed to drift very slowly and very low over houses. It blocked out much of the sky as it passed over and there was a faint humming sound associated as well. Mr E admits that his memory is vague as he was so young and he is not sure how much of it has been coloured by what he has later read about UFOs. However, he feels that things then became fuzzy - "as if I was looking through a silver, transparent visor". Everywhere looked as if "covered in phosphorescent paint". The next recollection is of his mother dragging him inside and telling him to forget it, but she claims now to have no memory of this event. Although it seemed too real, he does agree the experience might just be a vivid dream. However, it is worth noting that in May 1977 there was a UFO wave in Britain during which an airship featured quite a lot. But it was a REAL airship, as I saw it myself - twice.

CASE 8843 BUFORA 23 August 1988 Fleckney, Leics C3-5

Mr C - a retired engineer - was watching an aircraft at 10.20 on sunny day - when his attention was drawn to a bright reflection in the west. At first he thought it was a weather balloon but as it came nearer he began to doubt this. It shot at great speed and then moved away rapidly south west, being in view only about 30 seconds. The colour was a light brown and it was shaped as a beachball, with yellow vertical lines. It does sound very much as it was a form of balloon.



CASE 9018 FUF0IG 21 February 1990 Blackpool, Lancs June Cameron A4-5

Mrs G was walking her dogs near the zoo at about 23.30 when something made her look up. Coming from the north was a group of lights without obvious shape. They were "as bright as a hundred watt bulb" and were in formation with a 'leader' which edged out, hovered, allowed the retinue to pass by and waited for two stragglers adrift from the main body. When these rejoined the group heading south the 'leader' went with them. Mrs G was convinced they were 'going somewhere'. Altogether about 40 of the objects were in the formation - which was followed by another group with six 'leaders'. These had 'red lights' on. FUF0IG do not wish to evaluate this case as they are chasing an allegedly similar report from 1982. However, I cannot help but think that the behaviour and appearance of the objects (with some reservations) once again matches a flock of birds that might be reflecting ground lighting from their underbellies. Having seen this effect myself I can well match it up with Mrs G's story.

CASE 9020 MUF0RA 29 August 1990 Warrington, Cheshire B3-5

Between 22.30 and 22.45 this night local police received two reports of lights. The first described a white star moving slowly with red and green flashing lights. The other referred to a boomerang shap with a flashing light. Enquiries showed that Manchester Airport had much traffic at the time and this is almost certainly what was seen. Police agreed with our suggestion and closed the investigation.

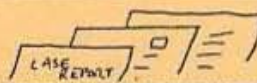
CASE 9021 NUF0RC Late Sept 1990 Banbury, Oxfordshire R. Pritchard D4-4

A couple camping by the Rollright Stones on the night of the autumn equinox claim to have had a close encounter with a black diamond shaped object surrounded by flashing lights. It was 'wobbling' inside cloud and was very low down. It hovered for a time making a "noise like a generator" then moved away extremely slowly.

CASE 9017 MUF0RA 1 October 1990 Stockport, Cheshire Roy Sandbach B2-5

At 01.00 Mr Q was in his car asleep outside the North Cheshire Studios in Heaton Mersey. He was waiting for someone to open up the works. A police officer tapped on the car to enquire what he was doing, then left. Mr Q looked at the sky for a moment and saw a white light surrounded by red dots and 'flickering' reddish. He watched it in the west for an hour more or less stationary. It then 'vanished', possibly into cloud. Probably the planet mars.

CASE HISTORIES



GENETIC BEEFSTEAK

A cattle mutilation in Ireland?

This is one of those take it or leave it stories, reported by a Mr W (who is convinced UFOs are piloted by fallen angels and the government are in league with them). He claims to have witnessed a most extraordinary event on the banks of the River Bann near Derryvore which is not dissimilar to the famous Frodsham 'cownapping' case of early 1978, which Mr W is aware of.

The events occurred at 21.20 on 26 January 1968 - a clear frosty night with a full moon. Mr W and a friend were in a field which was full of grazing cattle when they saw a dark rugby ball shaped object ON the ground and entities seemingly putting probes into the cows. Upon seeing the men the entities (not seen clearly it appears) went back into the UFO, which promptly glowed white and took off.

As the object climbed at a 45 degree angle over the river it threw off thousands of crescent shaped white particles which formed a mist or fog. This enveloped the object and fell to the ground surrounding the two men as well. They felt as if inside a tingling 'forcefield' (indeed Mr W believes he subsequently developed diabetes as result of this exposure). There was a strange calm and silence over the field; although he thought one of the animals uttered a 'scream'.

The UFO climbed upwards into the thickening mist and vanished into it. The mist then dissipated and it was gone.

Mr W says he reported the matter to the MoD and was called to RAF Aldergrove near Belfast for a 'debriefing' with the base commander and several Americans. He was asked many questions (eg 'Do you know where the aliens come from?') and was told officially that he should not talk to the press and to report all future sightings to the government only.

Subsequently (at a time and place he will not describe) he says he witnessed a UFO land in the grounds of a genetic research laboratory and thinks this is significant.

Then in September 1985 he was with a farmer friend in woods beside Lough Neagh when they saw a light. Beams were shot towards them from this and they fled to hide in trees. His friend broke down and was crying that the woods were haunted, but next day Mr W found that an 'alien symbol' (a face) was burnt into the sleeve of the anorak he was wearing. We have photographs of this which he also sent to the MoD when reporting this incident, as he believed he had been asked to do when at RAF Aldergrove. I can only echo the response of Clive Neville at the Air Staff 2A who told him; "our staff" have "studied (the photos) very carefully and have assured me that they could find absolutely nothing on them for you to worry about."

Whilst Mr W is clearly an urgent and sincere type of person who seems to feel that he has stumbled upon important information that the world should hear (and he has apparently spent some time trying to persuade Desmond Leslie - the Irish author) I have to confess that I am little the wiser after listening to his story, which was long on generalisations and limited on facts.

Of course, this is the sort of case that many American researchers will enjoy - particularly Budd Hopkins, who might find the allegations about genetic experimentation dating as far back as 1968 to be of some interest. But I suggest caution is best exercised when contemplating this affair.

WORDS

At this time of year we like to have a competition. In the past I have been accused of making them too hard, so I've tried to change that this time round. The prize - as usual - is a free subscription (if you've paid up already you get an extra 12 months free). All you have to do is study the five quotes below concerning crop circles. All were uttered this year by one of the names listed. Match the right names to the right quotes (beware - there are a few red herrings) and send your entry by January 31st.

A: "The media must now face up to its responsibilities and help to destroy the myth of alien circles."

B: "The more scientists involved the better. Then the sooner we will have the whole thing tied up."

C: "I think many of these (pictogram style) patterns are genuine and offer clues to the internal structure of these objects."

D: "Operation Blackbird knocked research back years."

E: "We have gained an enormous amount of credibility."

(Choose from: - Colin Andrews, Pat Delgado, Paul Fuller, Terence Meaden, John Michel, Ralph Noyes, Jenny Randles, George Wingfield). Good luck!

DIARY DATES: -

Upcoming BUFORA lectures at the London Business School (Regents Park Outer Circle, starts 6.30 pm) are:-

5 January Lynn Picknett - paranormal agony aunt

2 February Normal Oliver - conceptions and coincidences

On 19 January (1.30 pm) Ken Phillips will lecture on witness led investigation at the Friends Meeting House, Wellington St, Northampton.

NUFON Regional Groups

SPI	(W. Scotland)	5 Tullibody Rd, Alloa, Clackmannanshire	FK10 2LL
SRUFO	(E. Scotland)	129 Langton View, East Calder, Wst Lothian	EH53 0RE
NLUFOIG	(Cumbria)	89 Bare Lane, Morecambe, Lancashire	LA 4 6RN
HSWL	(Nth Lancs)	63 Devonshire Dr, Clayton-le-Moors, Lancs	BB 5 5RH
FUFOIG	(Fylde Coast)	293 Devonshire Rd, Blackpool, Lancashire	FY 2 0TW
Ghostbusters	(Lancashire)	20 Duncan Place, Pemberton, Wigan, Lancs	WN 5 6RP
MUFORA*	(Cheshire)	6 Silsden Ave, Loxton, Lancashire	WA 3 1EN
CONNECT	(Wharfedale)	33 Green Lane, Addingham, Ilkley, W. Yorks	LS29 0JH
IUN	(Yorkshire)	1 Woodhall Dr, Healey Lane, Batley, W. Yks	WF17 7SV
CUFOSC	(Shropshire)	117 Earle Street, Crewe, Cheshire	CW 1 2SG
SSPR	(Derbyshire)	17 Old Quarry Ave, Vales, Sheffield	S 31 8RW
SKYSCAN	(Staffs)	116 Repton Rd, Burton on Trent, Staffs	DE11 7AE
PARASEARCH	(W. Midlands)	79 Sandringham Rd, Stourbridge, W. Mid	DY 8 5HL
LUFOIC	(E. Midlands)	12 Unicorn C/van, Unicorn St, Thurmaston	LE 4 8AX
MUFORC	(Northants)	46 Occupation Rd, Corby, Northants	NN17 2EF

* NUFON archive files held, at University Chaplaincy, accessible c/o MUFORA T:0942-604265